

## A Brief Look at Divine Providence / Sovereignty

### Scripture

“So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What [is] your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what [is] your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!" Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. "For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss." So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?" And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy [is] this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine [and went] into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther [was]. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I [am] in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!" So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided." (Es 7:1-10 NKJV)

### Devotion

We really know very little of what God is doing. However, we can be assured He is tending to our needs. Please read the book of Esther if you have not done so in a while. It contains a wonderful picture of God's sovereign providence working to save His people the Jews.

The passage above shows how God turned Haman's plans to destroy the Jews into his own death sentence. If you read the book, you will discover the faith and patience of Esther as she waits upon the Lord.

The Bible teaches us to trust God. "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—[it] only [causes] harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth." (Ps 37:7-9 NKJV)

It is so very easy to worry about the future. Our world is filled with unrest. However, God is not distressed or confused about the future. "The eyes of the LORD [are] on the righteous, And His ears [are open] to their cry. The face of the LORD [is] against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [The righteous] cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles." (Ps 34:15-17 NKJV)

No matter what difficulty you are facing today; no matter how bleak the future looks; God is able to deliver you out of all your troubles. However, you must look to Him and not your own strength to find your way. "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that [is] with him; for [there are] more with us than with him. "With him [is] an arm of flesh; but with us [is] the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah." (2Ch 32:7-8 NKJV)

Know that God is in control and be strengthened! Amen.